

Range Telephone Cooperative – Montana - CLEC (Study Area 489007)

5 Year Service Quality Improvement Plan

2015 Update & Progress Report

Introduction

Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc. MT CLEC is an ETC serving Montana. The Montana study area is 354 square miles in the Forsyth exchange in Montana served by 1 wire center with 950 current access lines. Range has the following wire centers:

<u>Wire Center</u>	<u>Sq. Miles</u>	<u>Access Lines</u>
Forsyth (CLEC)	354	950

Current USAC Information

Per the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Range Telephone Cooperative CLEC received a total of \$39,870 in USF support funds year to date 05.31.2015. The breakdown of the funding to time of filing is:

High Cost Loop	\$ 39,870
ICLS	\$ 0
CAF ICC	\$ <u>0</u>
	\$ 39,870

These Universal Service Funds (USF) are used to maintain, upgrade and improve the Range Telephone network, and to cover operating expenses and debt commitments as necessary to continue offering affordable voice and broadband services within its authorized serving areas.

USF will continue to be included in Range Telephones current revenue accounts and forward-looking projections. Total Revenues are used for both capital expenditures as well as covering operating expenses and fixed costs incurred in obtaining capital from lenders. Range Telephone does not segregate USF separately for purposes of capital and operating expenditures. USF is expended in the same proportion as all other revenues.

The proportionate share of USF expenditures year to date 2015 allocated for CAPEX is estimated to be \$19,935 or 50%, and for OPEX is estimated to be \$19,935 or 50%.

(Note: A greater share of USF is spent on CAPEX during the 2nd half of a given year when Range's traditional construction season begins in mid-May and ends by November)

This 5 year improvement plan is a section of the Company's 2015 Annual Report. It is in compliance with # 54.313(a)(1) adopted in the FCC USF/ICC Transformation Order (11-161).

Range has developed its improvement plan, concentrating on the delivery and continuation of a robust network which provides, at a minimum, the federally required voice and broadband connectivity as stipulated by regulatory rule.

5 Year Service Quality Improvement Plan by Year

For the next 5 years Range will deploy Broadband Loop Carrier (BLC) equipment to support increased bandwidth to its end users and to collapse its legacy circuit switched voice network into its next generation packet switched voice network. The majority of this Plan entails replacing traditional copper T-carrier facilities with Fiber to The Node (FTTN) infrastructure in support of the new BLC being deployed. In an effort to minimize retained copper loop lengths, additional BLC nodes will be designed for installation either during initial placement of the FTTN facilities or in a subsequent Plan year. Fixed wireless will also be considered where such technology may be more economically feasible to meet the same objective. As this Plan is implemented all subscribers falling within the definition of 'reasonable request' will have access to broadband service at speeds defined by the FCC.

Exchange maps have been included with this filing detailing those geographic areas that will be impacted by each project defined herein.

Plan Year 2016

FORSYTH EXCHANGE – MONTANA

FORSYTH DOWNTOWN BROADBAND LOOP CARRIER (FRSYMT)

The Forsyth Downtown project includes the placement of new electronics to establish a new Electronic Serving Area Interface (ESAI) on existing fiber route. The new Forsyth Downtown ESAI will connect seventy five (75) premises in a nine (9) square mile area. When complete the new site will support broadband service speeds of 50Mb downstream and 10Mb upstream. Anticipated funding for this project will be provided under a new Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loan design. Both the engineering and the construction of this project will be assigned to contract service providers. Expected completion of this project is within the 2016 calendar year.

Year	Number of Projects
2015	20
2016	30
2017	40
2018	50
2019	60

